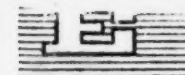


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Demographers

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UNION FOR AFRICAN POPULATION STUDIES

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VISION FOR AFRICAN POPULATION STUDIES

As a result of informal discussions at the second session of the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers, held in Addis Ababa 2-17 March 1962, a small committee was set up to examine the question of setting up a viable association devoted to the scientific study of African population. The report of the committee and the constitution prepared by it is attached as Annexes I and II.

The report of the Ad Hoc Committee

HISTORICAL INTRODUCTION

1. The need for an association devoted to the scientific study of African population has long been felt in the region. Attempts to set up such an association towards the end of the 1960s did not prove successful. However, during 10-14 May 1974 the Population Association of Africa (PASSAF) was inaugurated at Ibadan, Nigeria. The inaugural meeting formed part of what was a very successful scientific meeting. PASSAF also set up an editorial board for the publication of "Jinilar Mutans" (Journal of Population Studies in Africa) the first issue of which appeared in February 1976. However, the high hopes that many African demographers and all other social scientists interested in the study of population had of the PASSAF was short-lived and the association's activities died down. At the IUSSP conference in Mexico and at the third conference of African Demographers in Dakar in 1979 attempts were made to revitalize the Association. Unfortunately these were not successful and interest in PASSAF therefore tapered out. At the second session of the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers convened in Addis Ababa, 1-17 March 1982, an attempt was made by a few concerned demographers to add the topic to the agenda for the Conference but were dissuaded by the secretariat with the promise that the whole question will be examined informally and a report submitted to the third session of Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers.
2. An informal committee therefore was set up within the secretariat consisting of Mr. M. Azefer of the Population Division and Mr. K.T. de Graft-Johnson of the Statistics Division to look at ways and means of setting up a viable association devoted to the scientific study of African population. The committee met several times, drew up a programme of work and prepared a draft constitution. Prior to this enrolment forms had been despatched to prospective members. More than 300 of them completed this form. The constitution, in English and French, was despatched to each member of the new association for comments. These comments have been received and have been taken into account in revising the constitution.

CONSTITUTION

3. The draft constitution which was circulated elicited a number of responses. Some of these dealt with:

- (a) Name of the Union
- (b) Vice-President who is also the President-elect
- (c) Membership
- (d) Officers of the union
- (e) Location of the Headquarters and the secretariat

(a) Name of the Union

4. The name originally proposed for the Association was the African Union for Population Studies. It has however been pointed out that as members of the Union will be those who deal with African population studies and not necessarily those who reside in Africa, the name should be changed to the Union for African Population Studies. This will reflect the fact that it will be a union of researchers on the African population problems and not, as the previous name implied, a union of African scientists doing research in general population problems. The committee has accepted this recommendation and has changed the name to Union for African Population Studies, (UAPES).

(b) Vice-President as President-elect

5. It was also suggested that there was no point in making the Vice-President the President-elect and that instead the Vice-President should be elected to serve for a period of two years and be eligible to stand with others for election for the post of President when the latter's term of office expires. The committee examined this proposal but it disagreed with it on the following grounds. The post of Vice-President (or president-elect) has been put down to ensure continuity in the work programme of the Union. If a completely new council takes over the Union there is always the danger that it will be unaware of why certain decisions were taken and in its ignorance it may start new initiatives which may prove damaging to the interests of the Union. It should also be noted that it is now conventional for most international associations like the International Union for Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP) the Population Association of America (PAA) and the International Statistical Institute (ISI) to have an office of President-elect. This has proved very useful and the committee thinks that the Union for African Population Studies can learn from the experience of other international organizations.

(c) Memberships

6. A change had been proposed in Article 10 (b) as follows. "The Council may for good and serious reasons and by a two-thirds majority provisionally recommend a member for suspension from the privileges of membership to the General Assembly. The General Assembly shall, also by a two-third majority, withhold or reverse such a suspension as appropriate APES considering the member's oral and/or written defence. In matters of suspension or reversal of suspension of any member, the decision of the General Assembly shall be final." This text differs from the original proposed by the committee, it was considered to present the original version to the Joint Conference because the proposed revision was no improvement on the context and purpose of article 10(6).

(d) Officers of the Union

7. Additional officers of the Union had been proposed. These include an assistant Secretary-General, Editor of the Journal and an Auditor. The committee does not see why an Assistant Secretary General should be appointed and therefore has not accepted this recommendation. It has however made provision for the Editor of the Journal to be an officer of the Union because the Journal is expected to be the principal tool for disseminating the scientific studies of members. It should however be noted that auditors are independent and are never included in

any Council. They are expected to carry out their duties independent of the Council and their reports are submitted in their individual capacities to the General Assembly. It will thus not be advisable to include an auditor on the council who will in turn have to audit expenditures approved by the Council of which he was a member. Provisions have however been made in the constitution for the appointment of an auditor.

(c) Location of the headquarters

2. The constitution has made provision for the temporary location of the headquarters in ECA, Addis Ababa. It is hoped that at a later date an institution, i.e. a national statistical office, a demographic research centre or a university or similar organization would accommodate the invite of the Union to establish its headquarters in premises provided by the institution and would also provide a small subvention towards the upkeep of the secretariat. It is usual for the seat of the Union to be also the location of the secretariat. A question has been asked as how a Secretary-General who is resident in Ghana or Nigeria or Kenya can operate with a secretariat in Addis Ababa. It should be pointed out that when the secretariat becomes fully operational, it will have its own full time Executive Secretary and the Secretary General of the Union will provide guidelines to the secretariat by correspondence and telephone calls. It will be inadvisable to move the secretariat to the place of residence of the Secretary-General every time a new Secretary-General is appointed. This procedure has been adopted by other scientific unions for example, the current Secretary General and Treasurer of IUSSP, is based in Paris, the previous one was based at Florence, Italy whereas the Secretariat is in Liege, Belgium. Of course the presence of the Secretary General in a location which is close to the secretariat is an asset. It is for this reasons that for the initial phase of the operations of the Union it has been proposed that one of the candidates for Secretary-General should be resident in Addis Ababa.

PUBLICATION OF JOURNAL

3. As already implied the publication of a scientific journal in which the results of studies and researches are published is one of the important objectives of the Union. It is for this reason that the committee has agreed that the Editor of the Journal should be included in the list of officers of the Union. The members of the Editorial committee have however not been included in the constitution because the selection is a function of the Council in consultation with the Editor-in-chief. However, in the absence of a Council at this time and in order to start work on the journal, the committee has recommended the following:

Editorial Board

Editor-in-chief

A. Adipoju (Nigeria)

Associate Editors:

A. Farrag (Egypt)

Sala-Biakanda, Moembela (Zaire)

B. Lantum (Cameroon)

G.M.K. Knedekpo (Ghana)

Julien Conde (Guinea/France)

PAYMENT OF SUBSCRIPTIONS

10. The committee examined the current economic situation in African countries, foreign exchange restrictions which are maintained in most of them and the effects of these on the payment of subscriptions. It also examined proposals which have been made for solving these problems in other international organizations. These proposals have included the use of UNESCO coupons in those countries where members may have no ready access to foreign exchange or international money order facilities. It was however pointed out that although the possibility exists for the use of UNESCO coupons, most Africans have found it difficult to make use of it for payment of subscriptions to international organizations and that this difficulty will be encountered by the members of the association. Another approach was to designate certain zones, say in the ECOWAS countries, where payment could be made in one currency and kept in a national "sub-regional" office of the association so that when the amount reaches a certain level it can be used for an activity within the sub-region. This has been tried with Eastern European countries but it has not been very successful.

OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

11. As part of the transitional arrangements for the operation of the Union, the committee acting as a Nominations Committee is recommending the following for the elections. It may be noted that for each post two candidates are proposed. The Joint Conference may wish to modify this list of candidates but it should be remembered that under the constitution members have the right to nominate other candidates. The list proposed by the committee is as follows:

President:	El Badry (Egypt)	K.T. de Graft Johnson (Ghana)
Vice-President:	S.P. Coulibaly (Upper Volta)	Moti (Lesotho)
The Secretary-General	M.A. Azefer (Cameroon)	
Treasurer	O. Ayeni (Nigeria)	
Editor-in-Chief	A. Adepoju (Nigeria)	Sala Diakenda (Zaire)
<u>Council members:</u>		
North	Mongi Echir (Tunisia)	Nagadi Gourari (Algeria)
West	C. Okoye	Abdoukarim Diop (Senegal)
Central	Mme Njeck (Cameroon)	Mfonlou Rephael (Congo)
Southern	G.M. Mandishona (Zimbabwe)	
East	Abdulahi Hassen (Ethiopia)	Bruno Disaine (Madagascar)

CONCLUSION

12. The committee has suggested that the Union for African Population Studies become operational with effect from 15 March 1984. The list of officers will be circulated to all members who have filled in their enrolment forms to enable them to propose other candidates in accordance with the constitution. After a full list has been received ballot papers will be sent to all members so that the officers and members of Council can be elected. It should be noted that for this first election the qualification for members eligible to vote, namely members in good standing will be waived and those who completed the prospective enrolment forms will be considered eligible to vote.

Draft Constitution of the
Union for African Population Studies (UAPS)

Article 1

Purposes and composition

The Union for African Population Studies (UAPS) (hereinafter referred to as the Union) is an association of individual members, having as its aim the furtherance of the scientific study of population in Africa.

Article 2

Objectives:

(a) The Union shall foster collaboration among persons engaged in the study of demography in all African countries.

(b) The Union shall stimulate interest in population matters among governments, national and international organisations, scientific bodies and the general public in African countries;

(c) The Union shall organize conferences and publish scientific information dealing with population matters.

Article 3

Headquarters

The Union's headquarters shall be provisionally located within the Secretariat of the Economic Commission for Africa and its temporary secretariat duties will be the joint responsibility of the Population and Statistics Divisions. The Union's headquarters may be transferred by a majority decision of the General Assembly or by postal ballot of all registered members to another city in an African country.

The activities, assets and liabilities of the Union shall be separate from those of the office or organisation in which its headquarters is located.

Article 4

Membership

The Union shall be composed of ordinary, honorary and institutional members whose applications shall be accepted according to rules laid down in Article 10.

Ordinary members

Ordinary members elected in the manner laid down in Article 10 below shall be persons who have made contributions to the scientific study of population by their researches, writing, teaching or otherwise.

Institutional members

The Union may grant institutional membership to national and international organizations involved in population related work in Africa. The Council of the Union shall submit the applications of such bodies to the General Assembly of the Union for approval.

Article 5

General Assembly

A meeting of registered members of the Union shall be convened every two years in the manner laid down in Article 11. Members of the Union attending such a meeting shall constitute a General Assembly. Should circumstances make it impossible to convene a General Assembly within two years of the previous assembly, proposals which would otherwise have been submitted to the General Assembly will be submitted for a postal ballot. A General Assembly shall be convened as soon as may be practicable thereafter.

Article 6

Officers and Council

1. The officers of the Union shall be a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary General, a Treasurer and Editor-in-chief of the Union's Journal.

2. Members who have held office as President may be elected Honorary President of the Union and remain such whilst they remain members of the Union;

3. The Council of the Union shall consist of the officers and five other elected members taking into account as far as possible geographical distribution. Honorary Presidents shall be members of Council in a consultative capacity.

Article 7

Period of Office

1. The officers and council shall be elected by registered members in the manner described in Article 12.

2. The President shall serve for a period of 2 years and shall not be re-eligible for any office.

3. The Vice-President shall be elected to serve for a period of two years and shall succeed to the office of President when the latter's term of office expires.

4. The Secretary-General, Treasurer and Editor-in-chief shall be elected to serve for a period not exceeding two years and shall be eligible for re-election.

5. Members of Council shall serve for a period of two years and shall be eligible for re-election for one further term only. They may thereafter be allowed to run for the office of Secretary-General, Treasurer or Vice-President.

6. Casual vacancies through death, resignation or otherwise shall be filled in the following manner:

- (i) A vacancy in the office of President shall be filled by the Vice-President. Provided that he does not serve more than half the former President's term, he shall be allowed to serve a further term;
- (ii) A vacancy in the office of the Vice-President shall not be filled until the election of officers during the next General Assembly;
- (iii) Vacancies in both offices of President and Vice President shall be filled by the member of Council who is most senior in length of membership of the Union until the election of officers during the next General Assembly;
- (iv) A vacancy in the office of Secretary General and Treasurer shall be filled by an appointment of a member of Union by the Council until the next election of officers;
- (v) A vacancy in the office of Editor-in-chief shall be filled by appointment of one of the Associate editors;
- (vi) A casual vacancy on the Council may be filled by co-optation. A co-opted member shall serve until the next following election of Council members and shall be eligible for election as Council member.

Article 8

Powers of Council and Officers:

1. The Council shall administer the affairs of the Union and organise its scientific activities, subject to the directives of the General Assembly.
2. The President may in case of urgency act on behalf of the Council, but shall report his actions to the Council immediately. Should the President be prevented by reason of disability or otherwise from acting, his powers shall devolve on the Vice President during such period of disability.
3. The Secretary-General shall keep minutes of the General Assembly and of the Council. He shall assist the President in carrying out the decisions of the Council and the General Assembly. He shall prepare reports on the activities of the Union.
4. The Treasurer shall keep the accounts of the finances of the Union. He shall prepare financial reports to the General Assembly on the finances of the Union since the last General Assembly.
5. The President, the Secretary General and Treasurer shall be ex-officio members of all administrative committees appointed by the Council or the General Assembly except the Committee on Nominations.

Article 9

Voting rights

1. All members of the Union shall have equal voting rights.
2. Votes at a General Assembly may, in the first instance, be taken by a show of hands. Any five members may demand after the results have been announced that a ballot be taken.
3. The Council may use postal ballots to obtain the Union's decision on specific issues.
4. When postal ballots are used, the Council will be required to mail ballots six weeks before the final date of return of ballots. The results of such ballots shall be communicated by mail to all Union members.

Article 10

Election and suspension of members

1. Election of new members shall take place in each calendar year, unless the Council shall otherwise determine.
2. A candidate for election to membership of the Union shall be proposed and seconded by two members of the Union. The proposer shall submit a statement of 100-200 words in length, giving reasons for supporting the candidate.
3. Nomination forms shall be submitted to the Secretary General by 31 January each year. They shall contain a statement of the candidate's present position, his principal past positions and of his scientific publications.
4. All nominations for membership shall be presented to the Council, which shall either approve or reject them. Candidates whose nominations are approved by the Council become members as from 1 January of the year of election. Candidates whose nominations are rejected shall be notified and the reasons for rejection given.
5. All candidates elected to membership of the Union shall become registered members upon payment of annual membership dues.
6. The Council may for good and serious reasons and by a two-thirds majority suspend a member from the privileges of membership. Such suspension shall become effective immediately but shall be reported to the next General Assembly. The suspended member shall have the right to address the Assembly either in person or by correspondence. The General Assembly shall uphold or reverse the action of the Council and its decision shall be final.

Article 11

Meetings of the General Assembly

1. Meetings of the General Assembly shall be convened on the authority of the Council at intervals laid down in Article 5.

2. The Secretary General shall give notice in writing to each member of the Union at his registered address of the date and place of the next General Assembly not less than four calendar months before the beginning date.

3. The accidental omission of notification under Article 11, section 2 shall not invalidate the actions of the Assembly.

Article 12

Election of officers and council

1. The following procedure shall govern the frequency of elections:

- (a) Election of officers and Council shall take place during the General Assembly of the Union
- (b) If no General Assembly takes place within two years and Council anticipates further delay in convening a General Assembly, elections shall be conducted by postal ballot under the same conditions laid down in Article 9, section 4.

2. At each General Assembly there shall be elected a Committee on Nominations consisting of five members of the Union all belonging to different countries. The Committee shall choose its own chairman and the Secretary General shall act as its Secretary. Individual union members may make recommendations on nominations, in writing to the Committee.

3. Alternative nominations may be submitted to the General Assembly by any five members of the Union six hours before the Assembly meets.

4. If ballot is by post the Chairman of the Nomination Committee shall consult the members of his Committee by post.

5. Persons receiving the largest number of voting rights shall be declared elected. In the case of an equality of votes the President shall have a casting vote in addition to his own vote.

Article 13

Finance

1. The financial affairs of the Union shall be administered by the Treasurer who shall work in close collaboration with the President and Secretary General and under the general direction of the Council. The President shall authorize all expenditure.

2. Members of the Union shall pay annual dues except they are excused by a resolution of the General Assembly.

3. The amount of annual dues shall be determined by the General Assembly on the advice of the Council.

4. Members who fail to pay dues for two consecutive years and are not excused from paying shall be considered as having resigned. Such members may be reinstated by a resolution of Council upon payment of outstanding dues.

5. The Council shall be empowered, if necessary, to charge a registration fee to members attending a conference organized by the Union.

6. The Union may accept donations, gifts or subsidies negotiated by the Council.

7. The General Assembly shall appoint auditors, who shall examine the books, vouchers and accounts of the Union and determine whether they have been properly kept. This report shall be submitted to the General Assembly through the Secretary General.

Article 14

Committee of the Union

1. The Council or General Assembly shall appoint committees to deal with internal matters concerning the Union or its external relations.

2. The Council or the General Assembly may also appoint committees to study specific problems in the field of demography.

3. All Union committees shall take office immediately upon appointment.

4. The chairman of each committee shall make a report on the Committee's work to each General Assembly.

5. The General Assembly may extend the mandate of a committee or revise its terms of reference after receiving the committee's report.

Article 15

Meetings and conferences of the Union

1. The Council shall arrange scientific meetings on specific subjects dealing with African demography.

2. Meetings organised by the Union shall be open to all members of the Union. Other persons may be invited or upon their request, permitted to participate on conditions laid down by the Council.

3. The Council may appoint an organising committee for each conference and may delegate powers to such committee.

4. The Council may make rules governing the preparation and presentation of communications to conferences by members. Such rules shall regulate the selection of papers for each conference.

5. The Council shall circulate submitted contributions selected for each conference to all persons attending the conference. It shall not be under any obligation to publish submitted papers.

Article 16

Publications

1. The Union shall publish the proceedings of General Assemblies, the statutes and a current list of members.

2. The Union shall publish as a regular publication a Journal on African Demography.

3. The Union shall also publish or collaborate with other organisations in the publication of matters appropriate to the objectives set out in Article 2. Such publications shall be regarded as special publications.

4. Members of the Union who have paid the appropriate dues shall receive all regular publications of the Union. The Council shall decide conditions under which special publications shall be made available to members.

Article 18

Amendments

1. Any proposals for amendment of these statutes may be submitted in writing by not less than five members belonging to at least three different countries.

2. Proposals for amendment shall be circulated to members at least 90 days before the date fixed for the General Assembly.

3. The General Assembly shall appoint a committee of five members to examine and modify proposed amendments for submission to the General Assembly.

4. The General Assembly shall vote on the amendment and it shall be approved if at least two thirds of the members present and voting favour the amendment.

5. After approval by the General Assembly the amendment shall be submitted to all members by postal ballot. The Secretary General shall invite members to return ballot forms within a period of six weeks. The amendment shall become operative if a majority of votes have been cast in its favour.

Article 19

The working languages of the Union shall be English and French.

Article 20

Dissolution

1. The Union may be dissolved by a two-thirds majority vote of the General Assembly or by a postal ballot for reasons of expediency.

2. In that event, the property, funds and records of the Union shall be assigned to any other continental scientific organisation involved in population work in Africa. Such assignment must be made within three months following dissolution of the Union.

Article 21

Transitional provisions

The officers and council in office at the time of the ratification of this constitution shall be deemed to have been elected in accordance with the provisions of this constitution.